



Envision Arlington Standing Committee

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Time: 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Location: Conducted on Zoom

Attendees: Juli Brazile, Caroline Murray, Alex Bagnall, Michael Brownstein

Non-members: Len Diggins, Johanna Meyer, Elizabeth Dray

Minutes

Upcoming Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting is being scheduled by Len for April 25th between 2-3:30 p.m. Everyone on the Advisory Board has responded except for Doug and Sandy.

Potential Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

- 1) Who would be the chair with Scott stepping down?
- 2) Would structure remain the same or restructure?

Michael noted that providing purpose and direction should be framed by the Advisory Board.

Juli noted that Advisory Board may not have experience in history of Envision.

EASC member engaged in conversation about whether leading the annual town survey was enough for the committee to do or were there other meaningful ways to engage with the community.

Envision Arlington Standing Committee (EASC) Background:

- Standing Committee is to provide structure and report to Town Meeting. This is an official town body.
- Advantage: As an official group, physical space can be reserved for in-person meetings.
- Challenge: much of the administrative work falls on the chair.
- Task Groups are created for easy engagement (without appointment, interest-based). This is a community organization.

EASC Current State:

- Other than the survey, there is not much implementation
- The Standing Committee does not currently attend task group meetings.
- Envision is a vehicle to liaise between different task groups and town leadership. Johanna noted that this is not successful.
- Elizabeth noted working groups may not realize that there is a connection to Envision. If that's the mission, we need to make that well-known.
- Len noted a general downturn in town engagement in all towns.
- Vacancies: Moderator plus Chair needs appointment. 9 total members available.

EASC members brainstormed possible ideas to restructure Envision Arlington:

- Becoming an extension of the Planning Department. Planning directors have wanted Standing Committee to lead education and engagement to bring structure to the community.
- Should task groups evolve into stand-alone committees?
- Standing Committee to be more plugged in to task group meetings, increasing awareness and providing synergy.
- If the benefit is that Envision allows for incubation opportunity for new ideas, could the Civic Engagement Group (CEG) take on this responsibility with the Advisory Board?
- Could the Sustainability Working Group be a single umbrella group comprised of task groups: Reservoir, Spy Pond, Sustainable. Task groups would meet regularly but periodically all task groups would meet together.

2023 Survey Dissemination Discussion

- EASC members will contact task groups to circulate survey to their networks.
- Len will send to Town Meeting Members (TMM) for circulation to their precincts.
- Juli does not recommend including an appendix of write-in answers to simplify in the published report, though this info can be made available to the groups.
- Juli to ask APS Superintendent to share blurb and link to principals
- Juli to prepare email/social media blurb
- Communication and PR for the survey:
- Survey Link/QR Code (same as previous)
- Juli will check with Marisa about the printing of the surveys

Survey Timeline

- Jan 31: 2022 Report to TMM
- January: Request Claire's response to the 2023 report
- February: Circulate the 2023 survey link (Housing Authority, PTOs, emails)
- March: 2023 survey ends, send preliminary 2023 reports to question groups, groups provide a written response about their learning and what they will do with that info.
- April 2023: Present 2023 survey results to Town Meeting
- May 2023: Finalize the 2023 analytical report. Make the report simple.
- Sept: Begin 2024 survey

2024 Survey

- Would a thematic survey make sense?
- Advantage: a prompt to get groups thinking cohesively
- Challenge: some groups need unrelated information (for funding, etc.)

Meeting adjourned 9 p.m.